

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the present application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Canceled).
2. (Previously Presented) The electronic image pickup system according to claim 3, wherein said reflecting optical element is a reflecting prism.
3. (Previously Presented) An electronic image pickup system, comprising:
 - an optical-path bending optical system comprising in order from an object side thereof,
 - a first lens group that is fixed during zooming,
 - a second lens group that includes at least one lens component and moves in such a way that, upon zooming, a spacing between said first lens group and said second lens group varies,
 - a third lens group that includes at least one lens component with a variable spacing between said second lens group and said third lens group upon zooming,
 - a fourth lens group that includes at least one lens component with a variable spacing between said third lens group and said fourth lens group upon zooming, and
 - a fifth lens group that includes at least one lens component with a variable spacing between said fourth lens group and said fifth lens group upon zooming,
 - wherein said first lens group comprises at least one reflecting optical element for bending an optical path; and
 - an electronic image pickup device located on an image side of said optical-path-bending optical system;
 - wherein said first lens group comprises, in order from the object side thereof,

a 1-1st lens subgroup that includes said reflecting optical element and has negative refracting power, and

a 1-2nd lens subgroup that has positive refracting power.

4. (Previously Presented) The electronic image pickup system according to claim 3, wherein said 1-2nd lens subgroup is a positive single lens located on an image side of said reflecting optical element.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Previously Presented) The electronic image pickup system according to claim 3, wherein a total number of lens components in said second lens group is one.

7. (Previously Presented) The electronic image pickup system according to claim 3, wherein a total number of lens components in said third lens group is two.

8. (Previously Presented) The electronic image pickup system according to claim 3, wherein a total number of lens components in said fourth lens group is one.

9. (Previously Presented) The electronic image pickup system according to claim 3, wherein a total number of lens components in said fifth lens group is one.

10. (Previously Presented) The electronic image pickup system according to claim 3, wherein said first lens group has negative refracting power.

11. (Previously Presented) The electronic image pickup system according to claim 3, wherein said second lens group has positive refracting power.

12. (Previously Presented) The electronic image pickup system according to claim 3, wherein said third lens group has positive refracting power.
13. (Previously Presented) The electronic image pickup system according to claim 3, wherein said fourth lens group has negative refracting power.
14. (Previously Presented) The electronic image pickup system according to claim 3, wherein said fifth lens group has positive refracting power.
15. (Previously Presented) The electronic image pickup system according to claim 3, wherein said third lens group moves during zooming.
16. (Previously Presented) The electronic image pickup system according to claim 3, wherein said fourth lens group moves during zooming.
17. (Previously Presented) The electronic image pickup system according to claim 3, wherein said fifth lens group remains fixed during zooming.
18. (Previously Presented) The electronic image pickup system according to claim 3, wherein a low-pass filter is located between said fifth lens group and said electronic image pickup device.
19. (Previously Presented) The electronic image pickup system according to claim 3, wherein said first lens group, said second lens group, said third lens group, said fourth lens group and said fifth lens group in said optical path-bending optical system are three lens groups each having positive refracting power and two lens groups each having negative refracting power.

20. (Currently Amended) The electronic image pickup system according to claim 3, wherein said optical path-bending optical system comprises said reflecting optical element and ~~7~~ 6 lens components.

21. (Currently Amended) The electronic image pickup system according to claim 20, wherein at least one of said ~~7~~ 6 lens components is a cemented lens component comprising a positive lens and a negative lens.